



Alameda County Coroner's Bureau
Gregory J. Ahern, Sheriff/Coroner
2901 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605
(510) 382-3000

Coroner Investigator's Report

CALL INFO	NAME OF DECEASED (LAST, FIRST MIDDLE)		TENTATIVE I UNIDENTIFIED		CASE NUMBER	
	DIAZ, Yanet				2014-00654	
	REPORTED BY		REPORTED BY PHONE		REPORTING AGENCY	
	Geraldine Perez				Washington Hospital	
DECEDENT	INVESTIGATOR		CALL DATE AND TIME		CASE TYPE	
	REBECCA LORENZANA		2/27/2014 1126		Removal Case	
	DATE AND TIME OF DEATH		DATE OF BIRTH		AGE	
	2/26/2014 2235		2/19/1981		33 Years	
DEATH	GENDER		RACE		MARITAL STATUS	
	Female		Mexican		Married	
	HGT		WGT		EYE COLOR	
					Brown	
NOTIFIC.	HAIR COLOR		OCCUPATION		EMPLOYER	
	Brown		HouseKeeper			
	Preliminary Summary:					
INCIDENT	LOCATION OF DEATH		LOC TYPE			
	Washington Hospital		HOSP			
	ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP)		COUNTY			
	2000 Mowry Avenue, Fremont, CA, 94538		Alameda			
DISP	Manner		Suicide		Death Certificate Signed By	
	Cause A		Anoxic brain injury		Interval Days	
	Cause B		Asphyxia by hanging		Interval Days	
	Cause C				Interval	
DISP	Cause D				Interval	
	Other Significant Conditions					
	LEGAL NEXT OF KIN		RELATIONSHIP		TELEPHONE NO.	
DISP	NOTIFIED BY		METHOD		DATE AND TIME	
	IDENTIFICATION METHOD		DATE AND TIME			
	Personal Identification		2/26/2014 2235			
DISP	LOCATION OF INCIDENT		AT WORK			
	Fremont Hall of Justice					
	ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP)		COUNTY		DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT	
	39439 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA, 94538		Alameda		2/21/2014 1210	
DISP	INVESTIGATING AGENCY		INV AGENCY PHONE NUMBER		OFFICER	
	Alameda County Sheriff's Office-ETS					
	FUNERAL HOME		BODY RELEASE TO FUNERAL HOME ON			
	CONTINENTAL FUNERAL HOME		3/7/2014 1410			
DISP	Full Autopsy		Partial Autopsy		Inspection	
	Yes					
	Record Review		Inspection w/Specimen		EXAM BY	
					TOM BEAVER	

**Alameda County Sheriff's Office****Gregory J. Ahern, Sheriff / Coroner****Coroner's Bureau, 480 4th Street, Oakland, CA****94607-3829****(510) 268-7300 / (510) 268-7333 (fax)****Investigator Narrative**

Decedent: DIAZ, Yanet
Case Number: 2014-00654
Investigator: Rebecca Lorenzana

First Call Information:

On Thursday, February 27, 2014, about 1125 hours, Registered Nurse Geraldine PEREZ, of Washington Hospital called and reported the death of 33 year old female, Yanet DIAZ. PEREZ told me (LORENZANA), on February 21, 2014, about 1215 hours, DIAZ was found unresponsive with a telephone cord around her neck at a courthouse in Fremont. EMS was summoned, and DIAZ was transported to the emergency room by paramedics with life saving efforts in progress. DIAZ was resuscitated and placed on life support where she had been since being transported to the hospital. PEREZ had no other information regarding the incident, other than she believed DIAZ was in custody at the time of the incident.

On Wednesday, February 26, 2014, at 2215 hours, a 1st brain death was declared by Dr. Daniel SWEENEY. The 2nd brain death was pronounced today, February 27, 2014, at 0945 hours by Dr. Sharan SINGH. The California Transplant Donor Network (CTDN) is interested in pursuing organ donation and plans on approaching the family tonight regarding being granted authorization. I told PEREZ to let us know as soon as possible once the family has consented to the donation so it could be presented to the chain of command here for authorization. PEREZ said she would keep us updated. (RL1702)



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Medical Summary:

DIAZ' medical history was unknown at the time of the report. It was later discovered she was an inmate at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, CA, and was known to [REDACTED]. She was classified as a Mental Health Inmate and housed in a Behavioral Health Unit according to jail policy and procedure.

I requested medical records from Washington hospital via fax and received them shortly after. They were added to the case file. (RL1702)

Description of the Death/ Injury Scene:

On February 21, 2014, about 1140 hours, DIAZ was placed in a female holding cell on the first floor of the Fremont Hall of Justice after she had met with her public defender. She was placed in the cell alone because her behavior was disrupting court procedures. About 1209 hours, DIAZ was seen hanging from a telephone cord around her neck. Fellow inmates called for help and deputies responded. Deputies removed the cord from around DIAZ' neck and initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation until paramedics arrived. DIAZ was transported to Washington hospital where she remained unconscious.

DIAZ was pronounced deceased in the Washington Hospital CCU, room #1. The room is a standard hospital room with one bed and medical therapy machines/equipment throughout. (RL1702)

Body Identification:



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DIAZ was personally identified as Yanet DIAZ by her family at the hospital. They were at her bedside when death was pronounced. (RL1702)

On March 11, 2014, I (GOGNA) received a letter from the Alameda County Central Identification Bureau (CIB) confirming that the fingerprints taken from the decedent was associated with Person File Number: [REDACTED] with the name Janet Lopez DIAZ. (AG#1303)

Next of Kin Investigation:

DIAZ was married to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was notified of the death by hospital staff. (RL1702)

Other Agency Reports:

This death occurred within the jurisdiction of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. Report 14-003238 was issued for this case. A copy of the report was added to the case file. In summary, the report indicated DIAZ was upset because she was not going to be released from jail. She was found in a cell with a phone cord wrapped around her neck and was slightly suspended but her shins touched the floor. There were no signs of foul play or indications that a struggle may have taken place.



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According to Deputy COMFORT the telephone cord was a round aluminum type cord and was approximately 30 inches long. Photographs of the scene were provided to me and added to the case file. (RL1702)

Property and Evidence:

Coroner receipt 34642 was issued for DIAZ. (RL1702)

Coroners Fees:

Removal and preparation fees of \$321.00 apply. The fees were paid in full on March 7, 2014 when DIAZ was removed from the Coroner's Bureau by Continental Funeral home. Accounting receipt 4719 was issued to reflect the payment. (RL1702)

Other Investigative Details/ Supplemental Information:

On Thursday, February 27, 2014, about 1235 hours, I called the Santa Rita Jail Watch Commander, Sergeant GALLES and informed him of the death. He provided DIAZ' person file number as [REDACTED] and reported she was classified as a mental health inmate. I requested records be sent to us from CJMH and GALLES said he would attempt to send them to me if there were any available. At the, time I also informed Sergeant WILSON of the death. (RL1702)



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On Thursday, February, 27, 2014, about 1719 hours, I received a call from Peyton WONG with the Donor Network. WONG said the Donor Network had received authorization from the family and the documents were being drawn up. WONG asked if the donation could take place as the forms were being signed and later faxed to the Coroner's Bureau. I told WONG that was not possible until we had received the authorization in writing, then, at that time, the donation would need to be approved by the Coroner's Bureau unit Commander, Lieutenant BOWERS and Chief Pathologist, Dr. BEAVER. I told WONG he would then be notified of their decision for approval or denial of the donation. WONG said he understood and would fax the documents when they were completed. (RL1702)

On Thursday, February 27, 2014, about 1800 hours, I explained this case to Dr. BEAVER and the impending donation request. Dr. BEAVER said he did not have any restrictions for donation other than the eyes. The eyes were not to be touched prior to his examination of the decedent. I explained to Sgt. WILSON the conversation I had with Dr. BEAVER and his authorization with the restriction. Sgt. WILSON said she would call the Donor Network at 1900 hours if the paperwork has not been faxed soon. (RL1702)

About 2030 hours, I (P. Wilson) received the Organ/Tissue Donor Authorization Form and supporting documents from CTDN. I spoke with Ryan Crull, Transplant Coordinator, and he explained they would complete required testing preparation for procurement by tomorrow evening, Friday. He said in the best case, DIAZ would go to the operating room Friday evening, but it would likely be Saturday evening. He agreed he would notify the Bureau when a time frame for the procurement was established, when they were finished, and in the event they did not move forward with the donation. He agreed to send organs back to the Bureau if not used for transplants. He understood the restriction of no Corneas, nothing above the neck, as well as no organs for research. He also agreed to collect two tubes of blood as well as attempt to obtain admission blood if available. I added the authorization documents to the case file. (PW#1494)

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On Wednesday, March 5, 2014, at 0615 hours, Deputy FRAZIER and I (WILSON) went to Washington Hospital and met the Nursing Supervisor. She released the decedent to us and called security to escort us to the morgue. The decedent was face up on a hospital gurney, nude and wrapped in a white body bag. There was an incision down the front of her chest and abdomen from the organ donation. CTDN records and blood were with the body. FRAZIER and I made the removal and placed her in the Coroner's van. We later returned to the Bureau and processed the decedent in the morgue. (dlw29)

On March 7, 2014, Central Valley Toxicology performed a complete drug screen on the blood specimen obtained from Washington Hospital. There were no common acidic, neutral or basic drugs detected. There was no ethyl alcohol detected. (RL1702)

Findings:

On March 6, 2014, I reviewed this case to determine a manner of death and to prepare it for closure. Upon review of the autopsy protocol and cause of death given by Pathologist T. BEAVER of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the Alameda County Sheriff's Office report, and toxicology report, I have determined the manner to be suicide. Although DIAZ' [REDACTED] history did not include suicidal ideations, she was witnessed to be physically distraught after hearing she would not be released from jail only minutes before she was found hanging in the cell where she was being kept alone. An investigation conducted by deputies of the scene and of the statements of the inmates who had found DIAZ, revealed no indication of foul play had taken place. (RL1702)

Supervisor Review:



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On Thursday, September 25, 2014, I (Sgt. Baron) reviewed this case and found it to be complete. I concur with the findings and approve this case for closure. (HB#2017)



CENTRAL VALLEY
TOXICOLOGY, INC.



Case Name:

Diaz,

Yanet

TOXICOLOGY NUMBER: CVT-14-3713

Specimen Description:

Hospital sample: 9 ml (2 vials) blood each labeled "Diaz, Yanet; 2014-00654;
03/06/2014; UNOS# ABB2471; ABO O; SEX F; YDL; DOB 02/19/81; Washington
Hospital; Fremont CA; 03/01/14; 1130 hrs; PST; JWH"

Delivered by Tricor

Date 07-Mar-14

Received by Bill Posey

Date 07-Mar-14

Request: Complete Drug Screen

Agency Case # 2014-00654

Requesting Agency

Alameda Co. Coroner's Office
Attn: Acct's Payable
480 4th Street
Oakland CA 94607

Report To

Alameda Co. Coroner's Office
Attn: Dr. Beaver
480 4th Street
Oakland CA 94607

RESULTS

Specimen: Hospital Blood (Gray Top Vial-03/01/14, 1130 hrs) Sample

Complete Drug Screen: No common acidic, neutral or basic drugs detected.
No Ethyl Alcohol detected.

3/21/14

B. L. Posey

March 13, 2014

B.L. POSEY
S.N. KIMBLE
Directors

1580 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, California 93611
Phone (559) 323-9940
Fax (559) 323-7502

Alameda County Sheriff's Office

Coroner's Bureau
480 4th Street, Oakland, CA 94607-3829



Gregory J. Ahern, Sheriff

Director of Emergency Services
Coroner - Marshal

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 6, 2014
FROM: Thomas R. Beaver, M.D.
TO: Case File 2014-00654
SUBJECT: AUTOPSY PROTOCOL

Autopsy performed upon the body of Yanet Diaz Lopez at the Coroner's Bureau, 480 4th Street, Oakland, California, on March 6, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.

AUTOPSY FINDINGS

- I. ANOXIC BRAIN INJURY DUE TO ASPHYXIA BY HANGING:
 - A. LIGATURE FURROW, ANTERIOR NECK, WITH DISTINCT PATTERN
 - B. VENOUS DURAL THROMBOSIS
 - C. CEREBRAL EDEMA, SEVERE, ACUTE.
- II. STATUS POST MULTIORGAN HARVESTING INCLUDING HEART, LIVER AND BILATERAL KIDNEYS.
- III. POSTMORTEM TOXICOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF HOSPITAL BLOOD FROM MARCH 1 REPORTED NEGATIVE.
- IV. STATUS POST TUBAL LIGATION, BILATERAL, REMOTE.

CAUSE OF DEATH: ANOXIC BRAIN INJURY DUE TO ASPHYXIA BY HANGING.

cc: EMS
District Attorney
Investigations Bureau

Sheriff-Coroner
Alameda County

Body of YANET DIAZ LOPEZ

CIRCUMSTANCE OF DEATH

Reportedly, the decedent is a 33-year-old female who was found unresponsive with a telephone cord around her neck in the interview room of a Fremont courthouse. Reportedly, she was transported to the Emergency Room and resuscitated. Reportedly, this occurred on 2/21/14. Subsequently there was a brain death declaration, and the decedent was made an organ donor.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is that of an unembalmed, well-developed, well-nourished female appearing approximately her recorded age of 33 years. The length is 59 inches. The weight is 134 pounds. Rigor mortis is present in the muscles of the jaw and extremities. Livor is faintly present over the dorsal aspect of the body, where it blanches sluggishly to palpation. Cosmetic earlobe piercing is apparent bilaterally. The ears are otherwise unremarkable. The head is normocephalic. The scalp is covered by long (up to 20 cm) brown hair which has been tinted red and orange. The eyebrows are bushy and dark brown. There is no crepitus to palpation over the bridge of the nose. The irides are brown. The pupils are round, equal, central and measure 3 mm. There are no hemorrhages within the palpebral or bulbar conjunctivae. There is drying artifact on the eyes,

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23 anteriorly. Photographs are obtained. The external nares are
24 unremarkable. The nasal septum is intact and in the midline.
25 The decedent's natural teeth are in good repair. There are no
26 chipped teeth. There are no broken teeth. There is no evidence
27 of trauma to the mucosal surfaces of the oral cavity. The neck
28 is symmetrical and well developed. There is a ligature mark on
29 the anterior neck (see "EVIDENCE OF INJURY").

30 The chest is symmetrical and well developed. The breasts
31 are normal adult female. There are no palpable masses or nipple
32 discharges. The abdomen is flat, firm and free of palpable
33 masses. The external genitalia are normal adult female. There
34 is no evidence of trauma to the external genitalia.

35 The lower extremities are symmetrical and well developed.
36 There is a fungal infection within the toenails bilaterally.

37 Attached to the left great toe are two cardboard identifi-
38 cation tags bearing identifying information for the decedent.
39 Attached to the right great toe is a cardboard identification
40 tag bearing identifying information for the decedent.

41 The upper extremities are symmetrical and well developed.
42 The fingernails are long and neatly trimmed. There is a scant
43 amount of dirt beneath the fingernails. There is no tissue or
44 hair beneath the fingernails. There is no tearing of the

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Body of YANET DIAZ LOPEZ

45 fingernails. Nail clippings are obtained.

46 The back is symmetrical and well developed. There is no
47 evidence of trauma to the anus.

48 EVIDENCE OF THERAPY: Protruding from the flexor aspect of
49 the right upper arm is a plastic vascular catheter. Present on
50 the anterior chest and extending down the abdomen from the
51 suprasternal notch to the pubic symphysis is a midline incision
52 held closed by black suture material. Protruding from the
53 external urethral meatus is a Foley-type catheter. Protruding
54 from the oral cavity is an endotracheal tube. Present at the
55 right wrist are two hospital identification bracelets. Present
56 at the radial aspect of the right wrist are at least eight
57 needle puncture marks. Protruding from the flexor aspect of the
58 left forearm is a plastic vascular catheter. Protruding from
59 the rectum is a rectal tube. Present on the dorsum of the right
60 hand are at least eight needle puncture marks. A single cardiac
61 monitoring patch is adherent to the right flank. Present on the
62 right lower quadrant of the abdomen are multiple needle puncture
63 marks associated with a small amount of extravasated blood.
64 Present on the flexor aspect of the left upper arm is a mottled,
65 purple-red, indistinct cutaneous discoloration. Present at the
66 right ankle is a hospital identification bracelet. Present

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Body of YANET DIAZ LOPEZ

67 along the right costal margin is an irregularly shaped,
68 1.5 x 1.0-cm, mottled, indistinct, purple-red cutaneous
69 discoloration. There is no other cutaneous evidence of recent
70 therapeutic intervention.

71 SCARS AND IDENTIFYING MARKS: Present on the dorsum of the
72 left wrist is a roughly circular scar. Present on the anterior-
73 medial right thigh are scattered, roughly circular, well-healed
74 scars. Some of these are hypopigmented.

75 EVIDENCE OF INJURY: Present on the anterior neck and
76 extending to the posterior neck bilaterally is a ligature furrow
77 which has a distinctive and repeating pattern of vertically
78 oriented cutaneous indentations ranging from 0.7 to 0.9 cm in
79 length. Photographs are obtained. Extrapolation of the
80 ligature furrow demonstrates the point of suspension to be in
81 the left posterior neck area. Present in the left inguinal area
82 is a mottled purple-red indistinct contusion measuring 4 x 3 cm.
83 Scattered over the left lower leg are multiple irregularly
84 shaped and variably sized, mottled, indistinct, purple-red
85 cutaneous discolorations. There is no other cutaneous evidence
86 of recent significant injury. There are no palpable fractures
87 of the long bones of the lower extremities. There are no
88 palpable fractures of the long bones of the upper extremities.

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Body of YANET DIAZ LOPEZ

111 RESPIRATORY TRACT: The trachea contains an endotracheal
112 tube. The trachea and mainstem bronchi are otherwise free of
113 foreign material. The mucosal surfaces of the trachea and
114 mainstem bronchi are grossly unremarkable. The right lung
115 weighs 300 grams. The left lung weighs 270 grams. The pleural
116 surfaces are smooth, glistening and pink-tan to red-brown.
117 Serial sections are spongy and pink-tan to red-brown with areas
118 of dependent congestion. There are no masses. There are no
119 purulent exudates. Emphysematous changes are inconspicuous.

120 GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT: The esophagus is of normal course
121 and caliber. The serosal surface of the esophagus is grossly
122 unremarkable. The esophagus is free of foreign material. The
123 mucosal surface of the esophagus is grossly unremarkable. The
124 serosal surface of the stomach is grossly unremarkable. The
125 stomach contains 70 mL of green, opaque, viscous material, a
126 portion of which is retained. Medications are not identified.
127 The mucosal surface of the stomach is grossly unremarkable. The
128 serosal surface of the small bowel is grossly unremarkable. The
129 small bowel contains a moderate amount of yellow-green liquid
130 material. Medications are not appreciated. The mucosal surface
131 of the small bowel is grossly unremarkable. The serosal surface
132 of the colon is grossly unremarkable. The colon contains a

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Body of YANET DIAZ LOPEZ

133 moderate amount of pasty, green-brown fecal material. The

134 mucosal surface of the colon is grossly unremarkable.

135 HEPATOBILIARY TRACT: The liver is absent owing to organ
136 harvesting.

137 HEMATOPOIETIC SYSTEM: The residual portion of spleen
138 weighs 90 grams. The splenic capsule is focally incised, and
139 biopsy specimens have been removed. The residual portion of
140 spleen is otherwise grossly unremarkable. The lymph nodes and
141 bone marrow are grossly unremarkable.

142 ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The right and left adrenal glands are
143 absent owing to previous organ donation. The pancreas is of
144 normal size, shape and position. The surface of the pancreas is
145 grossly unremarkable. Serial sections demonstrate preservation
146 of the normal pancreatic lobular architecture. There are no
147 calcifications or hemorrhages. The thyroid gland is of normal
148 size, shape and position. The serosal surfaces and cut sections
149 are grossly unremarkable. The pituitary is of normal size,
150 shape and position.

151 GENITOURINARY TRACT: The right and left kidneys are absent
152 owing to previous organ donation. The urinary bladder contains
153 the Foley catheter and no appreciable urine.

154 The bilateral fallopian tubes show previous tubal ligation,

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Body of YANET DIAZ LOPEZ

155 with the distal portions of the tubes absent. The bilateral
156 ovaries are grossly unremarkable. The uterus is of normal size,
157 shape and position. The endometrium is yellow-tan and otherwise
158 grossly unremarkable. The uterine cervix is grossly
159 unremarkable, as is the vaginal mucosa.

160 HEAD: Reflecting the scalp demonstrates no abnormal
161 collections of extravasated blood within the soft tissues of the
162 scalp or over the surface of the bony calvarium. Reflecting the
163 temporalis muscles bilaterally demonstrates no abnormal
164 collections of extravasated blood. Reflecting the bony
165 calvarium demonstrates no epidural, subdural or subarachnoid
166 collections of extravasated blood. Skull fractures are not
167 identified. Discolorations of the bony calvarium are not
168 apparent. The venous dural sinuses contain firm, red-brown,
169 occlusive thromboemboli. The brain in the fresh state weighs
170 1120 grams. There is marked cerebral edema as evidenced by
171 widening of the gyri and narrowing of the sulci. The lepto-
172 meninges over the surface of the brain and around the base of
173 the brain are thin, clear and delicate. Purulent exudates are
174 not appreciated. There is no herniation of the hippocampal unci
175 or cerebellar tonsils. The circle of Willis has its usual
176 anatomical relationships. There are no atheromas or aneurysms

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Body of YANET DIAZ LOPEZ

177 present. Serial coronal sections of the cerebral hemispheres
178 demonstrate no gross abnormality of the gray and white matter.
179 Mass lesions are not identified. Hemorrhages are not present.
180 Serial sagittal sections of the cerebellum demonstrate
181 preservation of the normal cerebellar architecture. There is no
182 gross abnormality of the gray and white matter. Serial
183 transverse sections of the brain stem and midbrain demonstrate
184 preservation of the normal architecture. There are no gross
185 abnormalities of the gray and white matter. Mass lesions are
186 not identified. Hemorrhages are not present. Stripping the
187 dura from the base of the skull demonstrates no basilar skull
188 fractures or bony deformities. Examination of the superior
189 cervical spinal canal, upon flexion, extension and rotation of
190 the head, demonstrates no fractures or subluxations.

191 NECK: The hyoid bone and thyroid cartilage are intact.
192 There are no abnormal collections of extravasated blood over the
193 surface of the hyoid bone or thyroid cartilage. Laminar
194 dissection of the strap muscles of the neck demonstrates no
195 abnormal collections of extravasated blood. The cricoid
196 cartilage is intact and grossly unremarkable. The larynx and
197 hypopharynx are free of foreign material. The mucosal surfaces
198 of the larynx are grossly unremarkable. The epiglottis and

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Body of YANET DIAZ LOPEZ

199 vocal cords are grossly unremarkable.

200 The tongue is of normal size, shape and position. The
201 surface of the tongue is grossly unremarkable. Sections
202 demonstrate no abnormal collections of extravasated blood and
203 are otherwise unremarkable.

204 TOXICOLOGY SPECIMENS:

205 Hospital blood from March 1 is collected and submitted for
206 toxicological analysis.

207 Psoas muscle is collected and retained.

208 Vitreous humor is collected and retained.

209 Gastric contents are collected and retained.

210

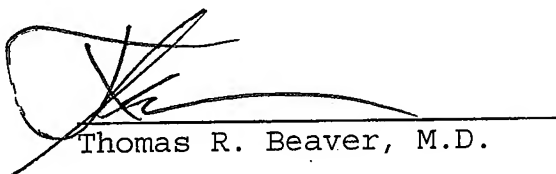
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215 TRB/cah



Thomas R. Beaver, M.D.